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Background and additional information:

Department received letter from Representative Patman, Chairman, Joint Economic Committee re proposed study cartel agreements and other private barriers to trade. Study may be made by Committee's Subcommittee on Foreign Economic Policy chaired by Representative Boggs.

Joint Committee last year made intensive studies several major aspects foreign economic policy, including trade problems in free world, particularly kind US trade legislation needed to replace expiring Reciprocal Trade Agreements Act. Letter states anticipation new trade legislation along lines President recommended will substantially remove public barriers to international trade

among

Drafted by:

Telegraphic transmission and

OTF:BP:HA Levin:skz 6/28/62

classification approved by:

BP - Harold A. Levin

Clearances:

OTF-Mr. Weiss

H-Miss Bunn and Mr. Claxton

WE-Mr. West

BNA-Mr. Taquey

RPE-Mr. Hall

GER-Mr. Freshman

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among free Western nations. Committee expects consider, after trade legislation settled, whether substantial private barriers to trade in cartel agreements and other concerted private practices, and if so, perhaps have fresh look at trade and antitrust laws principal trading nations.

Accordingly, Committee staff members making preliminary investigations involving trip to Western Europe described separate telegram. Committee requests Department officers Harold Levin or Harvey Winter or both accompany team. Department will try arrange have one join team later for at least short period.

Staff members want visit Mission officials, foreign officials, international staff members ~~xxx~~ EEC, ECSC, OECD, GATT, and American and foreign businessmen, academicians, to obtain information and views helpful to understanding situation and prospects in terms Subcommittee interest indicated above. Will also want see cartel registers where possible. Department making available to team cartel register information transmitted by London, Bonn, Oslo, Stockholm, Copenhagen, Vienna for Kefauver Subcommittee. Request Missions make arrangements to extent possible prior team's arrival including appointments foreign officials who can explain and introduce team to registers.

We appreciate that the possibilities in these directions may vary widely, depending on local attitudes.

Team may arrange for members to stay longer in particular places ~~xxx~~ than shown in itinerary for extended review of registers or additional discussions. (Team aware problem European August vacations.)

Department providing team with names key ~~xxx~~ US economic officials in Missions, also various foreign officials drawn mainly from attendance at OECD Committee of Experts on Restrictive Business Practices.

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